

Timetable requirements 2026

Accommodating Aurora College YDM co-enrolments in your timetable



Aurora College aims to provide innovative, flexible learning in a whole new context, by allowing students to connect locally and learn globally. Aurora offers a mix of synchronous online and residential school classes to students co-enrolled at [government high schools in rural and remote communities](#) across the state.

Our students connect with their teachers and classmates in **timetabled lessons** through a virtual learning environment which comprises web conferencing software, a learning management system and a range of online communication and collaboration tools.

Students enrolled at Aurora College in:

- Years 5-10 students in the Young and Deadly Mob initiative pilot program for Aboriginal High Potential and Gifted students have gained entry through a separate process supported by the Department's Selective Education Team. There is no principal approval process.

As a gazetted school, Aurora College must meet all policy and legislative requirements for government schools, including the provision of the prescribed number of hours of face-to-face teaching of our courses.

Students are shared enrolments between Aurora College and their home school and their curriculum must be planned for by both schools. This includes ensuring students are able to attend timetabled lessons in the Aurora virtual learning environment by **aligning the home school timetable** and the [common timetable template for 2026](#).

No Department funding is lost at the partner school for any student co-enrolled with Aurora College.

Background

Aurora College has worked closely with the Aurora College State Reference Group and with external consultants, Edval Timetables, to research and develop the [common timetable template for 2026](#).

Overview

The [common timetable template](#) (primary) will operate from the start of the 2026 school year. The schedule is built on a five-day cycle, with three sessions scheduled each day.

The table below provides a basic overview of the structure of the Aurora College Primary YDM school day.

	Duration (mins)	Start time	End time
Session 1	100	9:10 am	10:50 am
Recess	40	10:50 am	11:30 am
Session 2	100	11:30 am	1:10 pm
Lunch	60	1:10 pm	2:10 pm
Session 3	50	2:10 pm	3:00 pm

The [common timetable template](#) (secondary) will operate from the start of the 2026 school year. The schedule is built on a ten-day cycle, with six periods scheduled each day.

The table below provides a basic overview of the structure of the Aurora College Secondary YDM school day.

	Duration (mins)	Start time	End time
Period 0	55	8:00 am	8:55 am
Period 1	50	8:55 am	9:45 am
Period 2	50	9:45 am	10:35 am
Recess	45	10:35 am	11:20 am
Period 3	50	11:20 am	12:10 pm
Period 4	50	12:10 pm	1:00 pm
Lunch	30	1:00 pm	1:30 pm
Period 5*	50	1:30 pm	2:20 pm
Period 6	50	2:20 pm	3:10 pm
Period 7	20	3:10 pm	3:30 pm

*To accommodate varied lunch times at our current and future partner schools, Aurora College lessons have NOT been scheduled during period 5. This gives an effective lunch break in the common timetable template of 80 minutes.

Aligning your school timetable and the Aurora College timetable schedule

Please note: The information presented in this section should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Enrolment principles
- Common timetable principles 2026
- Common timetable template for 2026
- Checklists (for Principal, Timetable team, and Aurora College Coordinator)
- ☑ Student technology guidelines.

These documents and other support materials are available on the **partner school information page** of the Aurora College website (<https://aurora.schools.nsw.gov.au/partner-schools/resources-for-partner-schools.html>). Aurora College advises that you save this web address in your web browser 'favourites'.

Aligning your school timetable and the Aurora College timetable schedule for 2026 **includes specific tasks** to be undertaken at the partner school in 2025 and 2026 by the:

- Principal
- Timetable team
- Aurora College Coordinator.

Checklists for each of these roles are available on the partner school page of the Aurora College website.

The following points provide a **summary of the tasks** to be undertaken by the partner school.

Primary YDM Students

Partner schools will nominate a Group for each **Year 5 to 6 student** co-enrolled with Aurora College.

The partner school may choose to nominate:

1. Group P (cells shaded pink on the common timetable template for 2026) for Mathematics and Science and Technology, or
2. Group B (cells shaded blue on the common timetable template for 2026) for Mathematics and Science and Technology, or
3. Group R (cells shaded red on the common timetable template for 2026) for Mathematics and Science and Technology.

Partner schools with **Years 5 to 6** students co-enrolled at Aurora College timetable their own (home school) Mathematics and Science and Technology blocks in the time-slots of the nominated Groups on the Aurora College timetable template for 2026.

This does not require the partner school to run, their own Year 5 Mathematics class at the same time as the Aurora College Year 5 Mathematics block. Any combination of Year 5 Mathematics or Science and Technology (in the partner school) in the nominated Group of the common timetable template [for 2026 will work](#).

Secondary YDM Students

Partner schools will nominate a Group for each **Year 7 to 10 student** co-enrolled with Aurora College.

The partner school may choose to nominate:

1. Group G (cells shaded green on the common timetable template for 2026) for English, Mathematics and Science, or
2. Group N (cells shaded navy on the common timetable template for 2026) for English, Mathematics and Science.

Aurora College recommends that where possible, partner schools nominate one Group, either Group G (cells shaded green) or Group N (cells shaded navy), for each year group containing students co-enrolled with Aurora College.

Careful consideration needs to be given in making this decision in cases where the partner school elective line alignment across Years 9 and 10 may impact on staffing at the partner school.

For partner schools with Aurora College **students in more than one Year** (in Years 7 to 10), careful planning needs to occur when placing English, Mathematics and Science periods on your blocking matrix.

For example, if you have students in Years 7 and 10 and you place both groups in Group G (cells shaded green), then both Year groups at your school must be doing either English, Mathematics or Science during periods 1 and 2 on a Monday at your school.

Partner schools with **Years 7 to 10** students co-enrolled at Aurora College timetable their own (home school) English, Mathematics and Science blocks in the time-slots of the nominated Groups on the Aurora College [common timetable template for 2026](#).

This does not require the partner school to run, their own Year 7 English block at the same time as the Aurora College Year 7 English block. Any combination of Year 7 English, Mathematics or Science (in the partner school) in the time slots of the nominated Groups of the common timetable template for 2026 will work.

The NSW Department of Education's High Potential and Gifted Education Policy draws on François Gagné's definitions of giftedness and talent established in the Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent DMGT 2.0 (2009). The definition of high potential students across intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical domains expands the group of targeted students of earlier policies.

The policy states that: "High potential and gifted students across all domains require evidence-based talent development to optimise their growth and achievement." The policy requires schools to have learning and teaching programs that "extend high potential and gifted students beyond their current level of mastery, as informed by assessment, data and evidence." The policy also requires schools to "collaborate with other schools and organisations to offer learning opportunities that address advanced learning needs."

Learning environments which support the social-emotional development and wellbeing of high potential and gifted students enables them to connect, succeed and thrive. The policy states “schools have a responsibility to create learning environments that support high potential and gifted students to experience efficacy, agency and achieve their educational potential.” The policy also states that “Grouping strategies for high potential and gifted students should be purposeful and support differentiation of curriculum and learning experiences.”

Aurora College and all other NSW selective high schools, help a selection of high potential and gifted students in the state to learn by grouping them with students of similar ability, using specialised teaching methods and materials. The Department’s High Potential and Gifted Education Policy supports the inclusion of Year 5 to 10 Aurora College students in home school groupings which address their advanced learning needs and enhance their social-emotional development and wellbeing.

Bearing in mind the requirements of the High Potential and Gifted Education Policy, for those parts of the curriculum delivered by the partner school, Aurora College students in Years 5 to 10 should be placed in classes which best cater for their advanced learning needs and social-emotional development and wellbeing. In the majority of partner schools, the most appropriate placement will be in the cohort’s ‘top stream’ class. Although a relatively rare occurrence, should the Aurora model of teaching and learning not be suitable for any student and they elect to return to mainstream classes, they would need to be fully accommodated in the partner school’s high potential and gifted education program. Partner schools are advised to plan accordingly.

Partner schools need to incorporate into their student and teacher timetables, one period per fortnight per stage for the completion of **science practicals** for Years 7 to 10. For example, schools with the following shared enrolments:

School	Stage 4		Stage 5	
	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10
A	*	*		
B	*		*	
C	*	*	*	*

would need to allocate the following periods:

School	No. of allocated periods
A	1 x 50-minute periods per fortnight
B	2 x 50-minute periods per fortnight
C	2 x 50-minute period per fortnight

Please note that science practical periods are not included in the common timetable for 2026. This is to ensure that partner schools have flexibility in the scheduling of access to a science laboratory and the allocation of periods to a suitable science teacher (orteachers).

For further information on this program, including details of how Aurora **will fund the allocation of periods**, please refer to the [Science practical program](#) document on the partner school information page of our website.

- The completed 2026 timetable of the partner school should ensure all co-enrolled students at Aurora College in:
 - **Years 7 to 10** have one allocated science practical period per fortnight; are timetabled to attend all Aurora lessons in English, Mathematics and Science; are able to attend all partner school lessons (excluding English, Mathematics and Science); and have the allocated recess and lunch breaks at the partner school.

For further information, please contact:

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